

EAST BATON ROUGE



PARISH

"...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community."

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for

the Future of Public Health. National Academy Press. p. 12



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East Baton Rouge Parish

History¹

Created on December 22, 1810, this area was settled by the French and ceded to Great Britain under the Treaty of Paris in 1763. It was captured by Galvez in 1779. In 1807, under the rule of Spain, it was claimed that this parish, together with others in what is nor referred to as the Florida Parishes, was still under the rule of Spain and not included in the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The parishes in question rebelled against Spain and formed the West Florida Republic. This was immediately taken over by Governor Claiborne for the United States. During this early history, eight flags flew over the area.

In 1772, Penicaut, in his book on Louisiana, *Relation*, wrote, "Five leagues above le Manchac we found very high banks, which are called bluffs in that country, and the savage tongue Istrouma which signifies Baton Rouge (Red Stick) because there is in this place a reddened post, which the savages have placed to mark the division of the lands of the two Indian nations, that of the Bayougoulas from which we came and the other about 30 leagues higher than Baton Rouge, called the Oumas." Some historians believe the red stick was a tall red cypress tree stripped of its bark.

Today, with the city of Baton Rouge the dominant center of business, culture, education, and finance, the parish looks forward to more and more prosperity.

Culture and Recreation³

Baton Rouge, Louisiana's state capital, is where visitors can hear the state's colorful history told and retold. In Baton Rouge, you can see for miles along the Mississippi River from the top of the Capitol, travel back in time at Magnolia Mound or Rural Life Museum, relive WWII Navy life aboard the U.S.S. Kidd and Nautical History Center and tour a mysterious swamp. At the old State Capitol, see the gun some say was used to shoot Huey Long. In Plantation Country, Baton Rouge is the center for seeing more than 20 elegantly restored antebellum homes.

Parish Seat ¹	Baton Rouge ¹
Major Cities (over 5,000 population) ²	_
Baton Rouge	
1990	219,531
1997 (estimate)	



D 1	
Baker	
1990	
1997 (estimate)	
Merridale CDP*	
1990	
1997 (estimate)	N/A
Zachary	
1990	9,036
1997 (estimate)	
*Census Designated Place	,
Parish Population ²	
1990	
1997 (estimate)	
Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates) ⁶	
White	61%
African American	37%
Other	2%
Male	
Female	
Population age 0-4	
Population age 65 & over	

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	. 19 ft.
Land area in square miles	455.7
Water area in square miles ⁴	14.9

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	70°
January	58°
July	80°
Annual average rainfall	

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	202,800
Employed	191,600
Unemployed	11,200
Unemployment	5.5%

Educational Attainment (1990) ⁷	
Less than 5th grade	2.1%
High school graduate or higher	80.5%
Some college or higher	52.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.5%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers	
Harmony Corporation (Construction)	6,500
Turner Industries (Industrial Services)	3,500
International Maintenance (Intn'l Maintenance)	3,394
Public Employers	
East Baton Rouge Parish School Board (Education)	7,653
Louisiana State University (Education)	4,787
City-Parish Government (Government)	3,815

Poverty and Income	
Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	17.5%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	26.2%
D	# 00 077
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$23,077



References

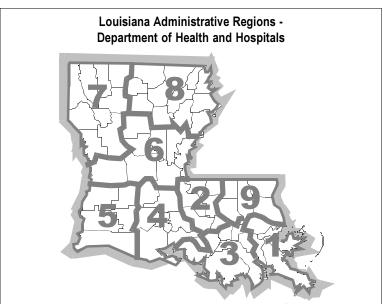
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- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name http:// www.census.gov/ datamap/www/ 22.html
- 7 U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates http:// www.census.gov
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Agriculture1

Soybeans, sugarcane, vegetable farming, beef cattle and dairy farming.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute) Baton Rouge Louisiana State University Southern University



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Region 1	Region 3	Region 5
Jefferson	Assumption	Allen
Orleans	Lafourche	Beauregard
Plaquemines	St. Charles	Calcasieu
St. Bernard	St. James	Cameron
	St. John	Jefferson Davis
Region 2	St. Mary	
Ascension	Terrebonne	Region 6
East Baton Rouge		Avoyelles
East Feliciana	Region 4	Catahoula
Iberville	Acadia	Concordia
Pointe Coupee	Evangeline	Grant
West Baton Rouge	Iberia	LaSalle
West Feliciana	Lafayette	Rapides
	St. Landry	Vernon
	St. Martin	Winn

Vermilion

Region 7

Bienville **Bossier** Caddo Claiborne DeSoto Natchitoches Red River Sabine

Region 8

Webster

Caldwell East Carroll Franklin Jackson Lincoln Madison Morehouse Ouachita Richland Tensas Union

Region 9

West Carroll

Livingston St. Helena St. Tammany Tangipahoa Washington